

## **COLOMBIA**

### **Award-winning journalist denied US visa, then admitted**

RRN has faxed letters to Colombian officials on behalf of well-respected journalist Hollman Morris, editorial director of an investigative weekly TV news program.

Morris has been targeted by the Administrative Department of Security (DAS), a domestic intelligence service under the command of the Colombian presidency. According to recently released documents, Morris has been subjected to a “smear campaign,” as the DAS itself described it, intended to discredit his journalism. Officials at the highest levels of government have said Morris is “linked” to leftist guerrillas and called him a “terrorist sympathizer”—accusations that, although unsubstantiated, led directly to death threats against him.

In July 2010, when Morris applied for a visa to accept Harvard University’s offer to join a fellowship program, a consular official at the U.S. Embassy in Bogota denied the visa, saying that Morris was ruled permanently ineligible for a visa under the “Terrorist activities” section of the USA Patriot Act.

After international outcries, the US State Department reversed its decision and granted Morris a visa to come to Harvard.